

Mr. Tegetmeier exhibited a collection of skins of new varieties of domestic Fowls, the property of Mr. C. Darwin.

Those from the Madras Presidency were chiefly of the Malay type, more or less resembling the gigantic Kulm Fowls that were imported some years since by Colonel Sykes, and which were formerly in the possession of the Society. The Fowls from Singapore were remarkable for the recurved character of the plumage. The interior of Persia furnished a very beautiful steel-black variety, perfectly distinct from any known in this country, and which was stated to be the Common Fowl of the district. Good specimens of the black-skinned, white silky-plumaged Fowl with black periosteum were forwarded both from Singapore and Madras. Mr. Tegetmeier called attention to the fact, that all the specimens shown differed in a much greater degree, than our common English Game Fowls, from the *Gallus Bankiva*, so frequently asserted to be the origin of our domesticated species of the genus *Gallus*.

March 10, 1857.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

The following papers were read :—

1. CHARACTERS OF SOME APPARENTLY NEW SPECIES OF AMERICAN ANT-THRUSHES. BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

1. FORMICARIUS TRIVITTATUS.

*Supra fusco-cinnamomeus, subtus clarior, gula pallidiore: alis caudaque nigris cinnamomeo tinctis, illarum tectricibus minoribus et majoribus fascia terminali et remigibus ipsis fascia mediali alba præditis, itaque alis trifasciatis: oculorum ambitu seminudo: rostro et pedibus nigris.*

Long. tota 7·0, alæ 3·4, caudæ 2·5.

*Hab.* In ripis fl. Amazonum.

*Mus.* Brit.

The only individual of this species which I have yet seen is that in the British Museum. It is easily recognizable among its congeners by its thrice-banded wings. I am now acquainted with seven birds which I consider to be probable members of this genus, viz.—(1.) CAYANENSIS, Bodd. ex. Pl. Enl. 821 (*colma*, Gm. et Bodd., *tetema*, Licht., *fusciapilla*, Vieill., *ruficeps*, Spix), ex Guiana et Brasilia. (2.) ANALIS (Lafr. et d'Orb.), Voy. d. l'Am. Mér. Ois.

pl. 6\*. f. 1, ex Bolivia, Cayenna et ins. Trinitatis. (3.) *NIGRIFRONS*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1855, p. 68, ex Nov. Grenada et fl. Amazon. (4.) *MONILIGER*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 294, ex Mexico. (5.) *TRIVITTATUS*. (6.) *ERYTHROPTERUS*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1855, p. 69. (7.) *NIGROMACULATUS* (Lafr. et d'Orb.), Voy. d. l'Am. Mér. pl. 6\*. f. 2, ex Bolivia et fl. Amazon, sup.

The last three birds have the space round the eyes more or less denuded, and would form the subgenus *Phlegopsis*, Reichb., of which, I believe, *F. nigromaculatus* is the type. In that very peculiar member of this family *Pyriglena nudiceps* (*Myiothera nudiceps*, Cassin, Pr. Ac. Sc. Phil. v. p. 106. pl. 6), this formation is developed to a still greater extent, the whole top of the head being naked.

## 2. *CONOPOPHAGA CASTANEICEPS*.

*Conopophaga ardesiaca*, Tsch. Faun. Per. p. 179, et Sclater in P. Z. S. 1855, p. 145, nec Lafr. et d'Orb.

*Supra olivascenti-brunnea; pileo castaneo, frontem versus lætiore: lateribus capitis et gula nigricanti-cinereis: penicilla post-oculari alba: subtus cinerea, abdomine medio albescentiore: lateribus olivaceo indutis: mandibula superiore nigra, inferiore flava, pedibus brunneis.*

Long. tota 4.4, alæ 2.9, caudæ 2.7.

*Hab.* In Nova Grenada, Bogota et in Peruvia Orientali (*Tsch.*).

*Mus.* Brit. et P. L. S.

This is a typical *Conopophaga*, with the characteristic white pencil of feathers on the sides of the head. Trusting to Tschudi's identification of a specimen collected by him, which is now in my collection, I had considered it to be d'Orbigny's *C. ardesiaca*. But upon examining the type of that species in the French National Collection I found such was not the case. That bird does not possess the chestnut-brown cap or darker cinereous colour of the throat belonging to the present species, but is more uniform in its colouring both above and below.

There is a specimen of this bird in the British Museum from Bogota.

M. O. des Murs, in the Ornithology of the Voyage of Castelnau and Deville, has described and figured another *Conopophaga*, somewhat resembling the present *C. peruviana*, pl. 16. f. 1. But this bird has spots upon the wings and a varied back.

## 3. *HYPOCNEMIS ELEGANS*.

*Hypocnemis* — ? , Sclater, P. Z. S. 1855, p. 147.

I have lately seen other specimens of this bird, and have one in my own collection—a Bogota skin. Though closely allied to *H. melanosticta*, I cannot consider it otherwise than specifically distinct, and therefore propose a name for it: I have already given its characters in these Proceedings for 1855.

## 4. MYRMECIZA HEMIMELÆNA.

♂. *Castaneus: dorsi medii pennis basi albis, inde nigris, apice castaneis: capite toto undique et corpore subtus ad medium pectus nigris: ventre medio albido: campterio summo et maculis tectricum alarum apicalibus albis: rostro nigro, pedibus flavis: cauda rufo-castanea unicolore.*

♀. *Obscure olivacea rufo tincta: interscapulii pennis basi albis: dorso postico, alis et cauda rufis: alarum tectricibus nigris, sicut in mari albo aut fulvescenti-albo guttatis: subtus læte ferruginea, pectore et ventre medio pallidioribus: lateribus et crisso rufescenti-olivaceis.*

Long. tota 5·0, alæ 2·4, caudæ 1·7.

*Hab.* In Bolivia (*Bridges*).

*Mus.* Brit.

There are single specimens of both sexes of this bird in the British Museum, which are the only examples I have yet seen. It may be best arranged near *Myrmeciza loricata*, the type of the genus, with which it agrees generally in form, although the tail is comparatively much shorter.

## 5. FORMICIVORA HÆMATONOTA.

*Supra brunnea, dorso medio rubro, hoc colore uropygium versus dilutiore: alarum tectricibus nigris, omnibus macula terminali pallide cervina præditis, secundariarum externarum apicibus eodem colore obsolete terminatis: subtus cinerea, gula nigra maculis triangularibus albis aspersa: ventris lateribus et crisso pallide brunneis: cauda unicolore brunnea: rostro nigro, pedibus brunneis.*

Long. tota 4·0, alæ 2·0, caudæ 1·2.

*Hab.* Chamicurros in ripis fl. Huallaga in Peruv. Orient. (*Hauwell*).

*Mus.* Brit.

*Obs.* Similis *F. gulari* (Spix, Av. Bras. ii. t. 41. f. 2) sed dorso medio rubro nec cinnamomeo, et colore subtus dilutius cinereo dignoscenda.

2. ON THE SPECIES OF CROCODILUS INHABITING THE RIVERS KWÓRA AND BÍNUË (NIGER AND TSADDA) IN CENTRAL AFRICA. BY DR. BALFOUR BAIKIE, F.R.Geog.S. &c.

Among the Zoological collection which I made during my visit to the rivers Kwóra and Bínuë in 1854, were several skulls of Crocodiles, varying in length from 14 to 26 inches. A careful comparative examination of these shows them all to be possessed of similar characters; but on attempting to refer them specifically, I have experienced considerable difficulty, their proportional measurements not agreeing with any hitherto described. Two African species of *Crocodilus* are already known,—*C. vulgaris*, the Nilotic or Egyptian